

# PHN Practice Model Exercise: Deaths and Injuries related to the Metro Blue Line (LA Times 9-21-00, 2-10-01, 7-3-01)

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## **ASSESSMENT: What assessment data (qualitative and quantitative) are available in these articles?**

- 1) Blue Line is Calif.'s deadliest transit system in 1999 with 10 deaths and 40 injuries. This is worse from 1998. *quantitative*
- 2) Most of the 50 accidents along the Blue Line in 1999 were collisions with motor vehicles. *quantitative*
- 3) The number of motor vehicle accidents per rail mile was more the twice the rate of the next highest system. *quantitative*
- 4) While the accident rate of other light rail systems dropped in 1999, the Blue Line's rate jumped by 20% over 1998. *quantitative*
- 5) Increase in motor vehicle accident rate probably due to increase in illegal left turns into path of train along Washington Blvd. *qualitative*
- 6) Some of the deaths recorded were suicides. *quantitative*
- 7) The crossing at Vernon Ave. has a heavy number of accidents. *qualitative*
- 8) The MTA blames accidents on motorist and pedestrians who walk or drive against signals. *qualitative*

What other data might be useful to gather to understand the scope of the problem?

## **What Healthy People 2010 Health Indicators are addressed?**

Injury and violence (This is a leading health indicator)

## **DIAGNOSIS: What is the diagnosis?**

Metro Blue Line has an unacceptable level of accidents, deaths, and injuries.

## **OUTCOMES IDENTIFICATION: What is the Outcome Objective?**

Reduce the number of people killed and injured either as pedestrians or motorists on the Blue Line.

The articles do not state all the important elements of an Outcome Objective, such as time frame for change, the amount of change, and who will change.

*All objectives (Outcome, Intermediate and Process) should include:*

- 1) Who will change; 2) What will change; 3) Time frame for change; 4) The amount of change.*

## **How would you state the Outcome Objective for this identified outcome including all the important elements?**

By 2005, the number of people killed or injured on the Blue Line in Los Angeles County will decrease by 50% from the 1999 rates.

## **What is the Healthy People 2010 Objective related to this diagnosis?**

There is no specific objective related to deaths or injuries from light rail trains.

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## **PLAN: What are some Intermediate Objectives suggested to address the Outcome Objective?**

Intermediate Objectives (“Change in organizations, laws, policies, and power structures at the *systems level*; change in attitudes, awareness, beliefs, practices, and behaviors at the *community level*; and change in knowledge, attitude, beliefs, values, skills, practices at the *individual/family level*”):

- 1) Decrease illegal left turns along Washington Blvd.
- 2) Decrease the number of pedestrians and motorists who pass lowered crossing gates.
- 3) Provide safer crossing access for pedestrians.
- 4) Increase the knowledge of community members about the dangers of illegal crossing of Blue Line tracks whether on foot or by car.
- 5) Increase pedestrian comprehension of posted warnings of approaching trains.

## **In developing the Process Objectives, what are some “Interventions” that are suggested? (Consider the Minnesota DHS PHN Section wheel of 17 PHN Interventions.)**

- 1) Policy Development and Enforcement
- 2) Surveillance
- 3) Disease and Health Event Investigation
- 4) Outreach
- 5) Social Marketing
- 6) Health Teaching
- 7) Coalition Building
- 8) Collaboration

## **What are some Process Objectives suggested to address the Intermediate Objectives? Also consider levels of practice and levels of prevention of each process objective.**

Process Objectives (“Detail the tasks that will be carried out within a specific time period”):

1. Provide education in the form of warning billboards and a public outreach campaign. *Community and Individual/Family; Primary* (Addressing Intermediate Objectives #1, 2, 4)
2. Increase law enforcement by assigning more deputies to catch and cite violators, increasing the fine for a violation to \$271, installing cameras to photograph motorists who try to drive around barricades. *Systems; Primary* (Addressing Intermediate Objective #2)
3. Obtain state approval and monies for new crossing gates that are more difficult to bypass. *Systems; Primary* Then test and construct the gates at the most problematic intersections. (Addressing Intermediate Objective #2)
4. Obtain monies for and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Blue Line at 55<sup>th</sup> St. and Long Beach Ave. *Systems; Primary* (Addressing Intermediate Objectives #2 & 3)
5. Design, test and install a pedestrian warning sign that will improve pedestrian demonstration of safe crossing behavior. *Systems; Primary* (Addressing Intermediate Objectives #2 & 5)

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**What other Intermediate and Process Objectives might you formulate to help in reaching the Outcome Objective?**

**ACT (assurance):** During this step in the process, all the process objectives set forth in the planning stage are implemented.

**EVALUATION:** If you (the Public Health Team) were actually doing this in your SPA or Program, how might you evaluate your success?

- 1) More deputies were assigned to enforcement.
- 2) Number of citations given increased (and then decrease as compliance improves)
- 3) Fine did increase to \$271.
- 4) Billboards were erected.
- 5) Public education campaign implemented.
- 6) Pedestrian bridge was built.
- 7) Cameras were placed at intersections.
- 8) Better gates were installed.
- 9) New warning sign was installed.

Ultimately, the death, injury and accident rate would steadily decrease each year from 1999 to 2005 as a result of these interventions.